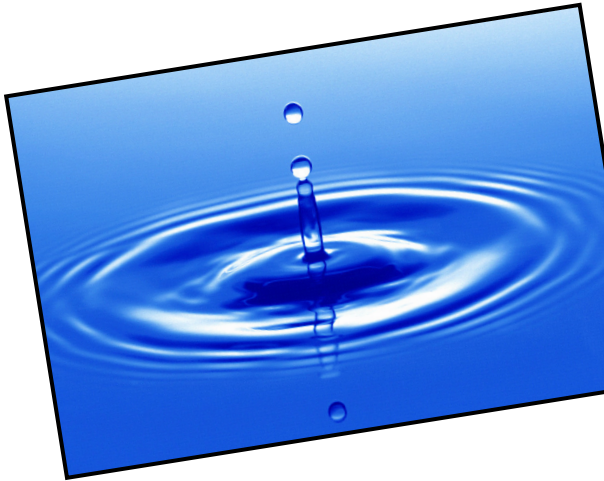


Victim Services at Juvenile Corrections Center–St. Anthony

Value Statement:



Victim Awareness is more than a component of the Balanced and Restorative Justice Approach for IDJC, it is more than paying fines and restitution....it is the value of building trust and respect between victims, offenders and communities.

It is all of us...victims, offenders, families, IDJC, counties, and communities...we all have an effect on each other.

Contact: Please contact Victim Program Coordinator Shane Boyle, (208) 624-3462, extension 4103, for questions or more information.

Victim Impact Panels: The Juvenile Corrections Center–St. Anthony (JCC–SA) is conducting victim impact panels approximately quarterly. We are using volunteers from the community to share their stories about how their lives have been impacted by crime. We welcome community members to participate in the panels to share their experience of how being a victim of a crime, directly or indirectly, have and continue to affect their lives.

JCC–SA selects eligible juvenile offenders to participate on the Victim Impact Panel (VIP). These juvenile offenders have worked on their own issues that may have added to their choices which created victims in the community and in their own families. Before they attend a VIP they will have explored in journals, program groups, and classes how their own beliefs, values, actions and choices have not only been life changing to them but also to those they victimized. After they attend a VIP they process with the staff and group to explore what lessons they learned through their participation with the VIP. We began our VIP services in December of 2008.

Victim Awareness Journal: JCC–SA currently uses the *Victim Awareness Journal*, adopted April 2008 after collaboration with all three state juvenile correctional centers. The *Victim Awareness Journal* focuses on responsibility of juvenile offenders' individual choices, accountability for the victimization or damage their choices created,

directly and indirectly, and the need for courage to be accountable and responsible for their actions, and to take action to make amends and restitution for their actions as much as possible without creating further victimization to those they have already hurt. When the juveniles leave the facility, they take with them their Victim Awareness portfolio which includes the entire journal lesson, victim apology letters and other reports as it relates to them developing victim awareness.

The victim awareness journals will be implemented campus-wide, all six living units, by the end of 2009.

Community Service: JCC–SA uses community service as part of a juvenile offender’s treatment process. The projects offer hands-on opportunities to allow juvenile offenders to make amends, experience community involvement/investment, and demonstrate positive values in the community. Some of the projects that we participate in are work projects with Targhee National Forest like trail maintenance, snow removal from historical buildings; litter control with the Bureau of Land Management, and other projects that are inspired by juvenile offenders, staff, and community to help make an impact on bettering the community and restoring more trust in the juvenile offenders being able to return to their communities.

Victim Apology Letter: While juvenile offenders are at JCC–SA, they write victim apology letters. Weekly they meet with their peer group and staff to discuss these letters. During these discussions the juvenile offenders’ role play different scenarios, allowing them an opportunity to practice victim empathy skills.

Victim apology letters encourage juvenile offenders to take account of: how they hurt their victim; identify thoughts and feelings the victims might have felt; explain how they understand the victim may have felt that way; explain how they plan to make amends for what they have done; explain to victims what they have done to change their beliefs and attitudes to prevent them from committing those acts in the future that have harmed victims in the past. Juvenile offenders are encouraged to be specific (what did they learn during their stay at JCC–SA) and identify their motives for writing the letters.

Additionally, juvenile offenders are taught life skills to build on character development, personal self-esteem, and accountability to help them identify for themselves ways to be personally motivated, positive, productive citizens of the communities to which they will be returning.